



Denise Helen Burke

March 19, 1954 - September 25, 2024

Burke, Denise Helen, September 25, 2024 age 70 of Milford. Beloved daughter of the late James and the late Sylvia Burke. Loving sister of Patricia (the late Jerry) McGill, Michael (Sandie) Burke, Andrew Burke, Christine (Doug) Peterson, Theresa Stewart and the late Joseph Burke. Survived by many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Denise grew up in Garden City and graduated from Garden City High East (when the city had two high schools). She went on to get an art degree and became an accomplished freelance artist. She was commissioned for an array of projects including elaborate storefront window scenes, local theater sets, and book illustrations. As one to never sit idle, Denise also worked for many years as a bartender before moving to Florida in the early 1980s. For many years, Denise enjoyed life in the Sunshine State. She continued with her artwork, while also working for a bit in mortgage lending, and taking care of her autistic brother Joey who lived with her for many years. In the early 2000s, Denise was inspired to open an authentic Irish pub, called Burkes of Ireland, in downtown Crystal River. While the hours were long, the friendships, fun filled events, and proper Guinness pours kept her smiling and the pub thriving. She and Joey enjoyed pancake breakfasts, movie nights, and an occasional drink together at the pub until his death in 2020. Denise was feisty and kind – a unique combination. She was a wonderful daughter, sister, aunt, cousin, and friend. In 2022, she (and her dog Bria) decided to move back to her home state of Michigan to be closer to family. Denise's last two years in the mitten

were spent visiting and reconnecting, with lots of smiles, laughs, and stories. The memories made are ones we will hold even closer now as we mourn the loss of our dear Denise.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, October 13th 1-8 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Road (between Ford Road and Cherry Hill) Westland. Funeral Service Monday, October 14th 11 AM at the funeral home. Interment Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Autism Speaks, PO Box 37148, Boone, IA 50037-0148. To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

Cemetery Details

Parkview Memorial Cemetery

34205 Five Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **13**. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Westland
980 North Newburgh Road
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 326-1300
westland@vermeulenfh.com

Funeral Service

OCT **14**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Westland
980 North Newburgh Road
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 326-1300
westland@vermeulenfh.com

Tribute Wall

DN

“ My husband, Gregg, and I were friends with Denise and Joey for over 30 years. There are many memories of times together at her home and at the pub. My favorite memories are of Joey's Halloween costumes, and, of course, Denise loved to dress up, too! Denise was loved and will be missed.

Donna Nelson - October 28, 2024 at 12:30 PM

PA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Pam Atkins - October 14, 2024 at 08:16 AM

VM

“ Denise was such a fun loving cousin! Her sense of humor always brought many laughs and that smile oh my such a beautiful smile coming from a beautiful person.

Vicki Macko - October 12, 2024 at 02:07 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Denise Helen Burke.



October 08, 2024 at 08:51 PM

KM

“ *We love you Denise. We miss you and will always cherish growing up with you and the rest of our Burke cousins - Kevin, Carolann and Madison Meagher*

Kevin P Meagher - October 04, 2024 at 11:54 AM